

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00144 221655Z

71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAB-01 AS-01 /075 W

----- 101858

R 221600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3686

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0144

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MOPS, AG, MO, MR, SS

SUBJ: SAHARA: PRESSURE ON MAURITANIANS ALLEGED

1. MEDIA JAN. 21-22 STRESS PRESSURE WHICH POLISARIO
ALLEGEDLY BRINGING TO BEAR ON MAURITANIAN FORCES AND
MOROCCAN MILITARY OCCUPATION OF NORTHWESTERN MAURITANIA.
FOLLOWING SPECIFICPOINTS ARE OF INTEREST:

A. ARGOUB: ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE (APS) DENIES
EARLIER REPORT THAT ARGOUB, ACROSS BAY FROM DAKHLA, HAD
FALLEN TO MARUITANIANS AND SAYS POLISARIO HAS KILLED 18 MAURITANIAN
SOLDIERS AND WOUNDED 22 OTHERS IN BATTLE WHICH STILL
RAGING THERE.

B. AIN BEN TILY: POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED
JAN. 21 ASSERTS THAT MAJOR BATTLE STILL IN PROGRESS AT
AIN BEN TILY JUST INSIDE MAURITANIA ON NORTHERN SAHARAN-
MAURITANIAN FRONTIER. APS SPECULATES THAT MAURITANIAN
CAPTAIN SOUEDATE OULD OUIDAD WHO ALLEGED KILLED AT AIN BEN
TILY JAN. 19 (ALGIERS 0134), DIED AT HANDS OF HIS OWN MEN.

C. POLISARIO ASSERTS THAT AS PART OF IMPERIALIST
CAMPAIGN, WHOSE AIM IS DOMINATION OF NORTH AFRICA,
MOROCCAN TROOPS NOW OCCUPY NORTHWESTERN MAURITANIA FROM BIR
MOGHREIN TO NOUADHIBOU. POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE URGES
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MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS TO VOTE WITH THEIR FEET AGAINST

TREASON OF OULD DADDAH.

2. MEDIA HERE HAVE PUBLISHED MAP SHOWING FOLOWING "ZONES OF COMBAT": DAKHLA, TICHLA AND TIFARITI IN SAHARA: AIN BEN TILY AND BIR MOGHREIN IN MAURITANIA; AND TAN TAN AND MSEID IN MOROCCO.

3. NEW "MOROCCAN" PUBLICATION: FOR FIRST TIME, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALGERIAN MEDIA JAN. 21-22 MENTIONED NEW "MOROCCAN" PUBLICATION, IKHTIYAR EL-THAWRI (REVOLUTIONARY WILL), WHICH HOSTILE TO MOROCCAN REGIME. ARTICLE QUOTED FROM SECOND EDITION THIS PUBLICATION GAVE LONG "EXPOSE" ON KENITRA COMPLEX, ALLEGING THAT, IN ADDITION TO THEIR COMMUNICATIONS FUNCTIONS, US FACILITIES IN MOROCCO WERE BASES FOR CIA ACTIVITIES AGAINST MOROCCAN PEOPLE AND FOR MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: ALGERIANS EVIDENTLY SEE MAURITANIA AS IMMEDIATE TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY IN THEIR SAHARA CAMPAIGN AND HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR PROPAGANDA ACCORDINGLY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, INTERVENTION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER00144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0732
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabcqa.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA: PRESSURE ON MAURITANIANS ALLEGED
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MOPS, AG, MO, MR, SS, POLISARIO, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006